

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LEBANON

A. IS THE GOL FINALLY GETTING TOUGH?

REUTER REPORTS THAT LEBANON'S HIGHER COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS ORDERED SECURITY FORCES IN BEIRUT TO CLEAR THE CAPITAL'S STREETS OF ARMED MEN BY 4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME DECEMBER 31. ANYONE CARRYING ARMS IN THE STREET AFTER THE DEADLINE IS TO BE SHOT ON SIGHT. MEANWHILE, THE SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS CALM.

B. OUTLINE OF A SETTLEMENT

EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS LEARNED OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
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SYRIA AND A FRANGIE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR A

SETTLEMENT. THE DETAILS INCLUDE:

--THE CONTINUATION OF FRANGIE IN OFFICE AND AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE CHRISTIANS;

--A MAJOR SYRIAN EFFORT TO UNITE THE SPLINTERED MOSLEM FACTIONS BEHIND KARAME AS THEIR SPOKESMAN;

--A "PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING" HELD BY FRANGIE AND KARAME TO WORK OUT COMPLETE DETAILS OF A SETTLEMENT;

--AN (UNSPECIFIED) "OUTSIDE FORCE" TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER UNTIL AN ADEQUATE LEBANESE POLICE FORCE IS BUILT UP.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SETTLEMENT REPORT RAISES SOME HOPE, BUT SERIOUS OBSTACLES REMAIN, SUCH AS: THE QUESTION OF A CO-GUARANTOR; THE STICKY ISSUE OF AN OUTSIDE POLICE FORCE; THE PROBLEM OF UNITING THE MOSLEMS BEHIND KARAME; AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF ALMOST TOTAL DISTRUST ON BOTH SIDES. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 15637, 12/30.)

2. CYPRUS TALKS: A NON-STARTER?

OBJECTIONS RAISED BY BOTH SIDES ON PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THREATEN THE EARLY RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON CYPRUS. WHILE THE GOC IS ADAMANT THAT THE INITIAL VENUE SHOULD BE IN NEW YORK, DENKTASH OBJECTS VIOLENTLY, MAINTAINING THIS WOULD MEAN CAPITULATING TO THE GREEKS. DENKTASH ALSO INSISTS THAT THE TALKS CANNOT RESUME WITHOUT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM ANKARA. (SECRET) NICOSIA 3566 (EXDIS) USUN 6983 (EXDIS), 12/30.)

3. STONEWALLING UNESCO

THE ARAB HARDLINERS ARE LIKELY TO RAISE AND PRESS SUCCESSFULLY THE "ZIONISM-RACISM" ISSUE AT THE JANUARY UNESCO MEETING WITH THE RELUCTANT SUPPORTING VOTES OF THE OTHER ARABS, SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES AND LDCS. OUR PERMANENT DELEGATION RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT, IN CONCERT WITH WESTERN

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EUROPEAN NATIONS AND MODERATE LDCS, THE US SHOULD:

--REQUEST A POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING; OR

--IF IT IS HELD, NOT PARTICIPATE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 33826, 12/30.) ROBINSON

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